

**Request for Qualifications to Conduct a Protected Instream Flow Study and
Water Management Plan for the
Souhegan River Instream Flow Protection Pilot Program**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) is seeking qualification statements and expressions of interest from environmental consulting firms for conducting a Protected Instream Flow Study (PISF study) for the designated portion of the Souhegan River as it is described in RSA 483:15-XIII and developing a Water Management Plan (WMP) for the associated watershed, known as the Water Management Planning Area (WMPA). The designated portion is the 31 mile segment within the towns of New Ipswich, Greenville, Wilton, Milford, Amherst and Merrimack. The PISF study and WMP will be conducted as part of the Souhegan River Instream Flow Protection Pilot Program in accordance with the provisions of RSA 483:9-c; Laws of 2002, Chapter 278; and Env-Ws 1900 (Instream Flow Rules). The rules describe the general scope of the work. See <http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/> for these documents. Candidates should be knowledgeable of the applicable state and federal laws and rules and have extensive professional experience in performing and integrating hydrologic and natural resource management assessments at a watershed scale, including instream flow studies. The available funding for this work is \$355,000.

The selected firm will:

1) Conduct a PISF study for the designated portion of the Souhegan River, as described in the rules, including selecting and applying appropriate methods to determine recommended protected instream flows for the public instream uses, resources and outstanding characteristics listed in RSA 483.

2) Prepare a WMP as described in the rules, for the Souhegan River WMPA. The WMP shall describe the activities to be conducted by Affected Water Users and Affected Dam Owners to maintain the Protected Instream Flows. The WMP will include an economic analysis and implementation schedules.

2) Attend periodic advisory committee meetings and present the PISF study and the WMP in public forums.

A Selection Committee will review all statements submitted, then rank and select a short list of firms to submit detailed proposals and to be interviewed. A consultant will be selected based on a structured review of proposals and interviews. Statements should identify personnel and partners or subcontractors, and include experience in preparing and presenting hydrologic and resource management assessments; and description of any previous work performed defining protected instream flows. Send six (6) copies of all documents by close of business on January 15, 2004 to: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Division – Instream Flow Qualifications Package, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301, Attn: Paul M. Currier, Watershed Management Bureau Administrator